

Artsmark and National Theatre Programmes for Primary Schools

Introduction

NT Learning provides children and young people with the chance to discover new skills and experience the excitement of theatre, through inspiring programmes and projects across the UK and at the National Theatre in London.

The **Primary Programme** works with Primary schools across the UK, offering a range of projects for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students. The programme offers many opportunities for enrichment with a focus on creativity across the whole primary curriculum.

All NT Primary projects provide resources and professional development opportunities for teachers enabling them to effectively support their students to enjoy, engage and immerse themselves in the programme whilst learning new skills themselves. All our workshop leaders are professional theatre artists who have been trained to work in a school setting. They include actors, directors, designers and theatre technicians who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our programmes.

The National Theatre is a registered Artsmark Partner Organisation endorsed by Arts Council England who can support schools in achieving their Artsmark Award accreditation. Artsmark is a nationally recognised quality standard for schools which helps to develop, celebrate and strengthen high quality arts and cultural provision in education settings.

All National Theatre programmes are highly subsidised to enable a broad range of schools to take part. In addition, we offer bursaries for schools where even the subsidised cost would be a barrier to participation.

The following document illustrates how the NT Primary Programme can ensure high quality, authentic arts activity with your school whilst supporting you on your Artsmark journey.

Artsmark schools are awarded their accreditation by Arts Council England based on the following 8 criteria; leadership, curriculum design, continued professional development (CPD), Children and young people engagement, range of offer, partnerships, equality and diversity, values and ethos. We have mapped each of our primary programmes against the Artsmark criteria below to ensure that your Artsmark journey is a success:

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using National Theatre Programmes?

What will be the impact of National Theatre Programmes in your school?

How can National Theatre Programmes help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Let's Play

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Let's Play?

Let's Play helps schools to create extraordinary school plays with support from the National Theatre.

Let's Play is an ambitious creative learning programme that can transform creativity and theatre-making in your school. Using a programme of continued professional development and learning, specially commissioned plays for children to perform and a suite of learning resources, Let's Play inspires learning across the curriculum.

For more information – www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/letsplay

What will be the impact of Let's Play in your school?

- Children will develop valuable core skills and attributes such as empathy, teamwork and leadership.
- Teachers will learn how to stage high-quality school productions.
- Teachers will enhance their understanding of creative learning, and explore how to apply these skills to their future classroom practice.
- The whole school community will come together to celebrate achievement and champion creativity.

How can Let's Play help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design - Artsmark Schools promote a broad and balanced curriculum.	The Let's Play programme will support teachers to show progression of knowledge, skills and understanding by providing specialist theatre making courses for both KS1 and KS2 teachers, led by professional theatre artists, and access to curriculum linked teaching sequences with a focus on creative learning techniques that teachers can embed into their future classroom practice Let's Play supports curriculum design by providing resources and ideas for using the chosen play as a stimulus for learning across the curriculum. It also encourages teachers to develop these ideas further and offers space for teachers to identify their own opportunities for differentiation and extension.
CPDL - Artsmark Schools provide evidence of a clear commitment to giving teachers CPDL in the arts.	The Let's Play programme provides continuing professional development in staging high quality school productions, and in rehearsal room and drama techniques which can also be used across the curriculum. Let's Play is designed as a teacher led programme that focuses on developing teacher's skill and confidence in order to leave a legacy of creative teaching and learning embedded in the school.

<p>Children and Young People Engagement Artsmark Schools demonstrate that they have involved children in the planning and delivery of preparing and organising a live performance.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme puts children at the centre of the process, ensuring they feel ownership and that every pupil has the opportunity to contribute to the final piece. In addition to performing in the production, children can take on a variety of roles including costume, props, lighting, sound and projection. Children will have the opportunity to complete an Arts Award which will develop their independent learning and critical thinking skills.</p>
<p>Range of Offer - Artsmark schools demonstrate a diverse offer of high quality arts experiences within and beyond the normal teaching hours.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme provides an opportunity for schools to utilise the Let's Play resources as part of an assembly, as a high quality extra-curricular activity, to connect with a curriculum subject or theme or as an end of term celebration. It is designed to permeate school life and support a culture of creativity.</p>
<p>Partnerships - Artsmark Schools demonstrate that they understand the value of working with arts partners to provide and deliver high quality arts education.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme provides support to both teachers and children to deliver high quality arts activity in schools. Schools are able to access year-round online tools to support them in the facilitation of excellent theatre in schools. Enabling them to access the expertise of an arts partner in a way that is flexible and convenient to them.</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to build relationships with teachers in other schools through the CPDL training, and continue to engage in peer support via the Let's Play online community. Schools are encouraged to share and celebrate their involvement in the programme with other schools in their locality.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity - Artsmark schools demonstrate a commitment to equality of education and opportunity in the arts.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme offers plays which explore themes such as gender, independence and friendship to give pupils a greater understanding of the world in a safe creative space, and contribute towards Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) learning. The Let's Play programme offers range of specially commissioned plays which have been piloted with a range of schools including a SEND setting to ensure that they are inclusive and flexible to the needs of all schools. Theatre making is a collaborative process where every individual makes an important contribution to the rehearsals and the final performance, and Let's Play embeds this in the programme.</p>
<p>Values and Ethos - Artsmark schools actively promote a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of the arts. Artsmark schools should be actively working towards Arts Award.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme has designed a bespoke Arts Award package for the programme to ensure that all children taking part in the programme can achieve a Discover Arts Award accreditation. Through CPDL and learning resources, the Let's Play programme will also enable teachers to link the plays to the broader curriculum so that children can apply their arts learning in a wider context.</p>

Make Theatre Days

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Make Theatre Days?

Make Theatre Days are a great opportunity to give children in years 4-6 an active and exciting introduction to theatre-making and the backstage world of the National Theatre. Select from a choice of four exciting days linked to different aspects of theatre-making: Puppetry, Performance, Design or Sound and Lighting. Visit the National Theatre to explore theatre from the inside out.

For more information – www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/maketheatredays

What will be the impact of Make Theatre Days for your school?

- Children will develop skills in either performance, puppetry, design or sound and lighting.
- Children will be able to observe and discover a wide range of jobs needed to create professional theatre.
- Teachers are supported in making cross curricular links with English, History Science, ICT and Art and Design
- Children have the opportunity to visit a major cultural venue

How can Make Theatre Days help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design	Artsmark schools use the arts curriculum to help children to explore other subjects. The Make Theatre Days programme ensures that children have a unique opportunity to see ‘behind the scenes’ of the professional theatre world and understand through our guided tour how theatre makers use mathematics, arts and design, history, science, literacy and ICT as well as a host of other skills to create excellent theatre.
CPDL	Artsmark schools show that they have worked with arts organisations to develop educator knowledge and skills. The Make Theatre Days programme provides a teacher training resource pack which outlines further activities to take back to school focused on puppetry, performance, design and sound and lighting. Teachers gain knowledge of the range of jobs and careers in theatre and the creative industries.
Children and Young People Engagement	Children at Artsmark schools can talk enthusiastically and demonstrate their knowledge and experience of high-quality arts and culture provision. The Make Theatre Days programme provides a unique opportunity for children to work with professional artists at the National Theatre developing skills and a greater understanding in theatre making. The Make Theatre Days programme will highlight to children participating that whatever talent or skill they have, they could find an exciting job in the arts industry.

Range of Offer	Artsmark schools demonstrate that children have had experience of arts and culture within their locality. The Make Theatre Days programme ensures that your school has an immersive day at the National Theatre in London to engage in a 'behind the scenes' theatre experience they will never forget.
Partnerships	Artsmark schools demonstrate that they have investigated offers from arts and culture providers. Taking part in a Make Theatre Day is a great first connection to the NT, and will enable you to find out more about how the NT could work with and support your school.
Equality and Diversity	The content of a Make Theatre Day can be structured and adapted to cater for a range of needs and contexts, including SEND groups.
Values and Ethos	Artsmark schools promote arts and culture as a genuine career choice and promote opportunities for experience of working alongside people from arts and culture industries. Make Theatre Days are a perfect introduction for KS2 children to the world of professional theatre.

National Theatre: On Demand. In Schools (ODIS)

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using NT: On Demand. In Schools?

The National Theatre: On Demand programme enables schools to access free streamed recording of National Theatre productions directly into classrooms, for free. The plays are curriculum-linked and supported by specially-designed teaching resources.

For more information - <https://schools.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

What will be the impact of ODIS in your school?

- All children will have access to high quality theatre experiences no matter where they are in the UK.
- Teachers will have access to engaging and accessible teaching resources to facilitate deeper understanding of the original text and cross-curricular learning.
- Children will develop critical thinking skills when reflecting and reviewing theatre productions.

How can NT: On Demand. In Schools help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

<p>Curriculum Design</p>	<p>Artsmark schools have clear schemes of work and programmes of study to show progression of knowledge, skills and understanding in the arts. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme gives schools the opportunity to access the best of theatre in their classrooms, each recorded in high definition in front of a live theatre audience. Teachers are invited utilise these to high quality productions to support cross-curriculum design with the support of downloadable resources for each performance.</p>
<p>CPDL</p>	<p>Artsmark schools provide evidence of a clear commitment to CPD in the arts for all members of staff. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme provides curriculum linked and supported learning resources created by teachers and leading artists for each of the performances. These free resources ensure that all staff can access them and use them to support their teaching.</p>
<p>Children and Young People Engagement</p>	<p>All children and young people in Artsmark schools can demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding of high quality cultural provision in their settings. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme is an opportunity for pupils to engage, reflect and review high quality performances brought from the National Theatre directly into your classroom.</p>
<p>Range of Offer</p>	<p>Artsmark schools are able to offer a diverse range of high quality arts provision. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme ensures that all pupils have access to age appropriate, high quality theatre performances that can be accessed both within and beyond the school day, without cost or distance from a theatre being a barrier.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Artsmark schools should investigate offers from arts partners. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme is free for schools to use and demonstrates that your school is aware of resources provided by the National Theatre. This programme provides a pathway to creating longer term partnership through other NT programmes.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p>	<p>Artsmark schools have an understanding and commitment to equality of opportunity to arts and culture experiences. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme is free to all school based in the United Kingdom therefore enabling all pupils from all social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to see, reflect and review excellent theatre.</p>

Values and Ethos	Artsmark schools promote the arts for the intrinsic value they have. The NT: On Demand. In Schools Programme gives teachers and children the opportunity to access excellent theatre for everyone and give some children their first taste of high quality professional theatre.
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Primary Theatre

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Primary Theatre?

The Primary Theatre programme introduces children in years 4-6 to Shakespeare. The programme includes a high quality Shakespeare performance in your school or a visit to the National Theatre to see a performance there.

For more information - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/primarytheatre>

What will be the impact of Primary Theatre in your school?

- Children will be introduced to a fully staged Shakespeare play specifically designed for younger audiences.
- Teachers will be able to develop schemes of work inspired by the creative learning programmes available - ranging from a pre-show workshop for your class or an in-depth education programme that includes CPD and teacher resources.

How can Primary Theatre help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design	Artsmark schools demonstrate a whole setting understanding and commitment to high-quality arts provision including experiences to see live performance. The Primary Theatre programme enables schools to give children a first experience of Shakespeare with an exciting performance either at your school or at the National Theatre. The Primary Theatre programme supports schools in delivering new and creative approaches to Shakespeare and Literacy.
CPDL	Artsmark schools show evidence that specialist artists have worked with their setting to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of high quality arts delivery. The Primary Theatre programme provides primary drama specialists to deliver practical drama sessions over four workshops with whole classes which culminate in a sharing of work to an invited audience. The Primary Theatre programme also offers an in depth one-day teacher CPD designed to help teachers take a more creative approach to literacy. The day provides teachers with a toolkit of drama-based techniques that can be used to explore Shakespeare or any other text or story.

Children and Young People Engagement	Children in Artsmark schools can talk enthusiastically and demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding and experience of high quality arts provision in their setting. The Primary Theatre programme enables you to bring excellent theatre to your school setting to give children the opportunity to see Shakespeare as a piece of live theatre for the first time. Children will have the opportunity to discuss, analyse and critique professional theatre in both verbal and written form.
Range of Offer	Artsmark schools can demonstrate and evidence that children have arts and culture experiences of national significance. The Primary programme enables schools to visit the National Theatre to see a high quality Shakespeare play designed for younger audience. The National Theatre is one of the most prominent performing arts venues in the United Kingdom.
Partnerships	Artsmark schools can demonstrate that they work effectively in partnership with arts providers and evidence that this is having a positive outcome for children and staff. The Primary programme provides creative learning options to suit your school which enable us to work with your school to create a wide variety of learning outcomes including building confidence, teamwork and speaking and listening skills.
Equality and Diversity	The Primary Theatre programme is flexible and can be adapted to different needs and learning styles. Our highly trained practitioners take a bespoke approach in each school to respond to the needs of each class and the school context.
Values and Ethos	Artsmark school link the arts to wider learning opportunities for children so that they can apply their arts learning in a wider context. The Primary Theatre programme gives a fantastic opportunity to introduce children from Year 4-6 to Shakespeare for the first time and create curriculum links with literacy, history and art and design.

National Theatre performances, publications and building

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using National Theatre performances, publications and building as a resource for teaching and learning?

National Theatre Performances

National Theatre programmes productions suitable for younger audiences each year. There are also occasional relaxed performances and access performances for groups with additional needs.

Explore the NT

You and your class can take a self-guided tour through our fascinating building, discovering facts about the history, the architecture and a chance to see the magic that happens backstage from the Sherling Backstage Walkway.

All About Theatre

The NT publication *All About Theatre* is a colourful, accessible book about all the different aspects of theatre making from performance through to wigs, hair and make-up. It is widely available at good bookshops and online.

What will be the impact for your school of using NT performances, publications and building as a resource for teaching and learning?

National Theatre Performances

- Children will develop their cultural understanding by having the opportunity to see a high quality performance at venue of national significance

Explore the NT

- Children will explore the NT building using cross curricular links into History, Literacy, Geography, Art and Design Maths, Science
- Teachers will build upon the London Curriculum which uses the capital as inspiration to bring the national curriculum to life.

All About Theatre

- Teachers will utilise this resource to inspire pupils to find out all the kinds of careers that are available in the theatre.
- Children can use this resource to find out more about how theatre is made.
- Children will have a deeper awareness of the different career options available in the theatre profession.

How can National Theatre performances, publications and building help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design	Artsmark schools use the arts curriculum to help children explore and make connections in other subjects. Using the NT as a resource for learning through seeing a performance, exploring the building or reading All About Theatre enables you to create curriculum links with literacy, history, geography, science, ICT, maths and art and design topics. Using downloadable resources, teachers can extend the learning of visits to the NT back in the classroom and create a fantastic learning journey for all.
Children and Young People Engagement	Children in Artsmark schools can demonstrate that they have involved children in the planning and delivery of arts experiences. Using the NT as a resource means that that children can help plan their visit to the NT and research the history of the building, careers in the theatre and performances that are on the main stage.
Range of Offer	Artsmark schools can demonstrate and evidence that children have had experience of arts and culture experiences of national significance. Using the NT as a resource enables schools to visit the National Theatre to see a high quality performance whilst making time to explore one of the most prominent performing arts venues in the United Kingdom.
Partnerships	Artsmark schools can demonstrate that they work effectively in partnership with arts providers and evidence that this is having a positive outcome for children and staff. NT Learning can support you to find out more about your National Theatre and programmes your school can take part in.
Equality and Diversity	Artsmark schools have an understanding and commitment to equality of opportunity to arts and culture experiences. All NT Learning programmes are either free or have bursary support to ensure that a wide range of schools can take part in the NT learning programme including those for which the programme costs present a significant barrier to participation.
Values and Ethos	Artsmark schools actively promote a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of the arts. By using NT as a resource you can celebrate and promote excellent theatre practice in the UK and give children the opportunity to visit the NT for the first time.